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COUNTY OF ORKNEY

AND

BURGH OF KIRKWALL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

1925

KIRKWALL:
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To

THE SCOTTISH BOARD OF HEALTH,
THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ORKNEY,
THE DISTRICT COMMITTEES OF THE MAINLAND, NORTH
ISLES AND WALLS, AND THE
TOWN COUNCIL OF KIRKWALL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the County of Orkney in respect of the year ended 31st December, 1925, along with the Sanitary Inspector's report.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. B. BANNERMAN.

Public Health Office,
Kirkwall, 5th April, 1926.

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER AND TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.

WALTER B. BANNERMAN, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS.

MAINLAND WALTER B. BANNERMAN, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.
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NORTH ISLES ... WALTER B. BANNERMAN, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.
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WALLS WALTER B. BANNERMAN, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.
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SOUTH RONALDSHAY. JAMES DEWAR, M.B., C.M.

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KIRKWALL WALTER B. BANNERMAN, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.
(Lond.), D.P.H.

STROMNESS F. L. DUNCAN, M.B., C.M.

COUNTY SANITARY AND VETERINARY INSPECTOR.

GEORGE STEVENSON, M.R.C.V.S.

COUNTY ANALYST.

A. SCOTT DODD, B.Sc., F.I.C.

INSPECTOR—FOOD AND DRUGS.

ROBERT WOOD.

CLERKES.

MARY MOWAT.

COUNTY OF ORKNEY

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

The **Population of Orkney**, as estimated by the Registrar-General for Scotland, amounted to 22,991, an increase of 262 from the previous year.

Detailed information as to age and sex distribution was given in the Report for 1922 and need not be repeated.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of **births registered** during the year was 364 and after correction for births transferred to and received from other areas the **net births** amounted to 365, giving a **birth rate** for the County of 15·8 per 1000 of the population.

Birth Rate.—There appears to be a steady decline in the birth rate for the County, which in 1920 stood at 20·3 per 1000. The year 1924 gave a small rise, but again this year there is a further decline.

The **net illegitimate births** numbered 18 or 5·2 per cent. of the net births for the year.

The **illegitimate birth rate** is also showing a decline only in a more marked manner. This rate stood at 9·1 per 1000 in 1921 and has dropped steadily to 5·2 in 1925.

TABLE A.—ANNUAL BIRTH RATE FOR EACH AREA.

	Net Births.	Per 1,000 Population		Illeg. Births.	Per 100 Births	
Mainland	130	15·4	(All Scotland)	5	3·8	(All Scotland)
North Isles	93	15·5		4	4·3	
So. Ronaldshay	29	14·9		2	6·9	
Walls	19	13·4		1	5·3	
Kirkwall	66	18·4		5	7·6	
Stromness	28	17·5		1	3·6	
Total	365	15·8	(21·3)	18	5·2	(6·6)
1924	383	16·8	(21·9)	24	6·2	(6·6)
1923	383	16·3	(22·8)	24	6·3	(5·2)
1922	403	16·4	(23·5)	28	6·9	(6·8)
1921	413	17·1	(25·2)	38	9·1	(7·1)

The number of **deaths registered** was 379. After making the necessary corrections for deaths transferred to and received from other areas the **net deaths** amounted to 390, giving a **crude death rate** for the County of 16·4 per 1000 of the population.

Death Rate.—This figure 16·4 per 1000 population is more or less stationary; there is but a slight variation year by year. The diseases that caused most of the deaths were Influenza, Tuberculosis, Malignant Tumours, Apoplexy, Heart Disease, Bronchitis. Influenza with its complications. Bronchitis and Pneumonia invariably takes toll of the aged and infirm, and, whilst so many people neglect to take care of themselves when suffering from this disease, it will continue to take its toll.

Malignant Tumours.—This is an increase on previous years, and without doubt this scourge is increasing throughout the British Isles and, until the cause and a remedy can be found one must regard deaths from this disease as unpreventable.

Tuberculosis.—As far as this County is concerned this cause of death does not vary much. It is lower this year than in the previous year, and the figure for the year 1920 is smaller than 1925.

There were 27 deaths of infants under one year of age, equal to an **infant mortality rate** of 63·5 per 1000 births occurring during the year.

Infant Mortality.—This rate has been gradually falling for the last few years with the exception of 1921, when there was a big jump up from 55 to 91 per 1000 births. The following year it dropped to a more normal figure, and it slowly decreased to 1924. This year there is another rise in the rate to 63·5 per 1000 births. This figure can be considered as somewhat good when compared with that of all Scotland, which stands at 91 per 1000 births, but though the comparison is a favourable one, even the County figure is far too high.

TABLE B.—ANNUAL DEATH RATES FOR EACH AREA.

	Net Deaths.	Per 1,000 Population		Under 1 year.	Per 1,000 Births.	
Mainland	152	...	18·0	7	...	54
North Isles	91	...	15·2	4	...	43
So. Ronaldshay	31	...	15·9	2	...	69
Walls	18	...	12·7	1	...	53
Kirkwall	71	...	19·8	6	...	91
Stromness	27	...	16·9	2	...	71
			(All Scotland)			(All Scotland)
Total ...1925	390	...	16·4	(13·4)	22	— 63·5 (91·0)
1924	383	...	16·8	(14·4)	19	... 49·6 (98·0)
1923	379	...	16·1	(12·9)	19	... 50·1 (79·0)
1922	410	...	16·7	(14·9)	22	... 53·9 (101·0)
1921	383	...	15·9	(13·5)	32	... 91·0 (91·0)

Deaths in Institutions numbered 27—Balfour Hospital 10, Orkney County Home 2, Royal Asylum (Edinburgh) 6, Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen) 1, Scapa Tuberculosis Pavilion (Scapa) 3, Royal Infirmary (Edinburgh) 3, Sick Children's Hospital (Aberdeen) 1, Royal Infirmary (Glasgow) 1.

A detailed survey of the causes of death will be found in the report for each Public Health District.

120 **marriages** took place, equal to a **marriage rate** of 5·5 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 6·6 for Scotland as a whole.

Number of marriages and marriage rate per 1000 for each Area :—

	Main- land.	North Isles.	South Ronald.	Walls.	Kirkwall Burgh.	Stromness Burgh.	Total.
Marriages	38	24	8	6	33	11	120
Rate per 1000 ...	4·5	4·0	4·1	4·2	9·2	6·9	5·5

Vaccination (Scotland) Act, 1907.—Under the above Act the number of persons who intimated conscientious objection to vaccination of their infant children was 151, or 41·4 per cent. of the children born during the year.

TABLE C.—ENTIRE COUNTY.—DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO
CAUSES AND AGE PERIODS.

CAUSES OF DEATH—CORRECTED FOR TRANSFERS.

Cause of Death.	Net Deaths	Age												85 and over
		M. F.	-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	
1. Enteric Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Typhus Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Measles ...	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Influenza ...	27	10	17	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	8	11	3
9. Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Other Epidemic Diseases ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	21	11	10	—	1	7	6	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
13. Tuberculous Meningitis ...	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Tuberculosis of Intestines and Peritoneum ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Other Tuberculous Disease ...	3	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
16. Malignant Tumours ...	35	18	17	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	12	13	6	—
17. Rheumatic Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Meningitis (not Cer. Spin. or Tuberculous) ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
19. Apoplexy ...	38	14	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	9	14	6
20. Heart Disease ...	66	25	41	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	11	18	25	11
21. Disease of Arteries ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. Bronchitis ...	28	5	23	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	10	13
23. Pneumonia (all forms) ...	8	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3	2	1
24. Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	5	2	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
25. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
27. All Diseases of Liver (not Malignant) ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
28. Nephritis, Acute and Chronic ...	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	5	—
29. Puerperal Septis ...	2	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Other Dis. and Acc. of Preg. and Parturition ...	12	8	4	12	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
31. Dis. of Early Infancy, and Malformations ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Suicide ...	13	10	3	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	1	4	1
33. Other Violent Deaths ...	97	51	46	4	3	—	3	3	5	7	11	29	29	—
34. Other Defined Disease ...	11	8	3	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	3	4	1	—
35. Causes Ill-defined or Unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Causes ...	390	176	214	22	6	3	3	14	13	12	23	45	75	66

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

64 **notifications of infectious disease** were received during the year.

TABLE D.—NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES ALLOCATED TO THE AREAS IN WHICH THEY OCCURRED.

	Mainland	North Isles	South Ronald.	Walls	Kirkwall Burgh	Stromness Burgh	Totals, 1925.
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	3
Typhoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	—	1	—	—	6	—	7
Puerperal Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	3	2	—	—	6	—	11
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6	6	5	4	2	2	25
Other forms Tuberculosis	6	—	—	2	4	1	13
Totals	20	10	5	7	19	3	64

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

By glancing through Table D., under the heading of Infectious Disease you will observe how free the County has been from Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever. Of the former one suspected case, of the latter two cases only, both of which were admitted to the Infectious Disease Hospital.

One case was notified as Typhoid Fever. The house was visited and full enquiries made, but the source of origin could not be traced. All measures necessary in the way of disinfection were carried out. The patient was removed to the Fever Hospital and subsequently died. The case was a peculiar one inasmuch as the onset and early symptoms were not in any way typical of the disease. The blood examination gave a doubtful diagnosis.

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The County was visited during the year by an epidemic of Measles, which originally started in Sanday, the disease being brought from Edinburgh by one of the islanders. Fortunately it was of a particularly mild type and occurred in months which were most favourable for evading complications. One death was returned as being due to Measles.

Whooping Cough also was widely spread throughout the County, but again this disease was of a mild nature.

List of Diseases which are Compulsorily Notifiable.

Smallpox	Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis
Cholera	Ophthalmia Neonatorum
Diphtheria	Malaria
Membranous Croup	Dysentery
Erysipelas	Trench Fever
Scarlet Fever	Acute Primary Pneumonia
Typhus Fever	Acute Influenzal Pneumonia
Typhoid (or Enteric) Fever	Puerperal Fever
Relapsing Fever	Tuberculosis (all forms)
Continued Fever	Infective Jaundice
Cerebro-spinal Fever	

Hospital Accommodation (Balfour Hospital.—17 cases were admitted, as against 28 in 1924, 24 in 1923, 18 in 1922, and 59 in 1921.—(Scapa Tuberculosis Pavilion) 14 cases were admitted during the year.

Disease.	In Hospital 31/12/24.	Admitted.	Died.	Discharged.	In Hospital 31/12/25.
Suspected Diph- theria	—	1	—	1	—
Scarlet Fever	—	2	—	2	—
Measles	—	9	—	9	—
Typhoid	—	1	1	—	—
Tuberculosis	5	18	3	13	7
Totals.....	5	31	4	25	7

Isolation Hospital.—The Isolation Hospital for use of the County, or that part of it that can make use of it, is situated in the Burgh of Kirkwall. It is connected and maintained by the Balfour Trust Funds and is not under the control of the County Authority. It consists of a block of buildings having 3 wards capable of admitting 15 patients, and has a Matron in charge, cook and a wardmaid. When occasion arises other nurses are engaged. Notifiable and non-notifiable cases are admitted, the patients being attended by their own medical attendant, when from the Burgh. Fifteen cases were nursed during the year.

Accommodation is reserved at Carness for the establishment of a Small-Pox Hospital should the need ever arise. It consists of one large hut. Two smaller and separate huts, and a third hut containing 3 rooms would be utilized as staff quarters.

Non-notifiable Diseases.—363 intimations were sent to the Medical Officer by school teachers and others.

TABLE E.

District.	Measles.	German Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Chickenpox.	Influenza.	Mumps.	Impetigo.	Ringworm.	Scabies.
Birsay	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—
Deerness	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evie & Rendall...	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Harray	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holm	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orphir	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
St. Andrews	2	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Ola	31	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Stenness	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Stromness	9	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Eday & Pharay ...	4	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rousay & Egilshay	—	—	—	—	6	—	1	—	—
Sanday	3	—	4	4	—	—	2	—	—
Shapinsay	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stronsay	1	—	—	8	—	1	—	—	—
Westray	2	—	—	14	7	—	—	—	—
So. Ronaldshay...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Walls	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stromness Burgh	11	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	—
Kirkwall Burgh..	156	—	2	16	—	—	—	—	—
	237	11	35	54	18	3	5	—	—

School Closure.—The following schools were closed on account of infectious disease, and certificates were signed by two members of the Local Authorities, in accordance with Section 7 (1) of the Code of Regulations for Day Schools (Scotland) Act, 1923:—

School.	District.	Disease.	Period of Closure.
Kirbister ...	Mainland	... Influenza	... Feb. 19-20, 1925
Kirkwall Burgh (Inf. and Jun. Depts.)...	Kirkwall Burgh	... Measles	... May 6-24, 1925
North Eday ...	North Isles	... Whooping cough...	Oct. 5-16, 1925
South Eday ...	North Isles	... Whooping cough...	Dec. 15-22, 1925

TABLE T.1.

Table T.1 shows the number of **Tuberculosis** notified from each Public Health District, and their classification according to site of the disease.

	Mainland.	North Isles.	South Ronald.	Walls.	Kirkwall Burgh.	Stromness Burgh.
Pulmonary	6	6	5	4	2	2*
Laryngeal	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningeal	—	—	—	—	—	—
Intestines and Peritoneum	1	—	—	—	2	—
Spine	—	—	—	—	—	—
Joints	1	—	—	1	—	—
Bones (exc't spine)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Skin	—	—	—	—	1	—
Lymphatic system (except abdom. glands)	4	—	—	1	1	1
	12	6	5	6	6	3*

* 1 not actually notified by M.O.H.

The ages of those notified were:—

TABLE T.2.

	Total	Years										
		-1	-5	-10	-15	-25	-35	-45	-55	-65	-75	75-
Pulmonary	24	—	1	1	4	5	4	6	1	1	—	1
Other forms	13	1	2	3	1	3	2	1	—	—	—	—
Totals	37	1	3	4	5	8	6	7	1	1	—	1

TABLE T.3.

	Died before Notification received	Period that elapsed between date of receipt of Notification and date of Death							
		Weeks				Months			
		-1	-2	-3	-4	-3	-6	-9	-12
Pulmonary	—	1	—	—	3	2	1	—	—
Other forms	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	—	2	—	—	3	2	1	—	—

Table T.4. shows the subsequent history of all cases notified since 1912.

TABLE T.4.

PULMONARY— Cases notified prior to 31/12/24	Died.		Left District.	Diagnosis Revised.	Disease Apparently Arrested.	No Dis- coverable Disease.	On list 31/12/25
Cases notified prior to 31/12/24	325	205	26	5	36	23	30
Cases notified during 1925 ...	24	8	2	—	1	—	13
Totals.....	349	213	28	5	37	23	43

NON-PULMONARY— Cases notified prior to 31/12/24	Died.		Left District.	Diagnosis Revised.	Disease Apparently Arrested.	No Dis- coverable Disease.	On list 31/12/25
Cases notified prior to 31/12/24	244	25	27	8	60	3	121
Cases notified during 1925 ...	13	1	2	—	5	—	5
Totals.....	257	26	29	8	65	3	126

It will be seen from the above that there were 126 cases remaining under observation at the close of the year. It was not possible to obtain detailed information regarding each, but as far as this could be ascertained it is given in Table T.5.

TABLE T.5.

	Pulmonary.	Other forms.	Totals.
Much improved	15	26	41
Slightly improved	8	46	54
No improvement	5	11	16
Slightly worse	—	—	—
Much worse	2	—	2
No information	13	43	56
	43	126	169

COUNTY TUBERCULOSIS.

During the Autumn of 1924 the County Tuberculosis Pavilion was opened.

This Pavilion is situated at Scapa, facing the sea, about 1½ miles from the Burgh of Kirkwall. The building is of wood consisting of two main wards at each end containing 4 beds in each, and off the passage between these wards are rooms, four of which are 1-bed wards, the other rooms being for the staff, and dining rooms for the patients, bathrooms, etc. The building is centrally heated and lighted by lamps; the latter should be replaced by electric light, for in an institution requiring the freshest of air, electric light is the best mode of lighting the wards.

The Pavilion is staffed as follows:—Matron, Nurse and Probationer, Cook, Wardmaid and Porter.

Twelve beds are available for Tuberculous patients, six male, six female.

In the early days of the Pavilion several deaths occurred in quick succession, and I think, judging from the difficulty I had in inducing patients to come in for treatment, and some of the remarks made, that most thought if they entered that would be the end of it. However, I am glad to say this feeling has gradually worn down, and during the year I have had as many as 10 of the beds occupied, and most of the year 6 have been occupied.

Since the opening in July, 1924, to December, 1925, 25 patients have been admitted.

The following table shews the number of cases treated during the year 1925:—

	Under Treat- ment 1/1/25.	Admitted.	Discharged.	Died	Remaining at 31/12/25
Males	1	7	4	1	4
Females	4	7	5	2	3
Totals	5	14	9	3	7

The cases admitted were classified as follows:—

	Lungs.	Bones and Joints.	Skin.	Abdomen.	Glands.
Males	4	2	1	—	—
Females	5	1	1	—	—
Totals	9	3	2	—	—

It is not my intention to endeavour to make an attempt as to the results of treatment. Firstly, the numbers are too small to be of value; secondly, the usual published results of Sanatorium Treatment are based on the condition of the patient when discharged. This gives one a wrong impression and a false sense of security, especially if the figure of arrests or cures is a high one. The only just way of arriving at correct figures is the condition of the same patient a few years later, after having resumed his ordinary mode of life. I have been asked on more than one occasion, "Is Scapa Pavilion worth while?" I have answered, "Yes!"

I can point out three good results in Lung cases, two good results in Bone Disease, and two Skins. But even if I could not show anything but some improvement, or no improvement, in the cases, one must remember that everyone who is admitted and discharged from Scapa has been educated in the way of managing himself so that when he or she returns home, the risk of infection for others is very greatly reduced, and in some cases might be considered negligible, in as much as he knows what to do and how to do it. This is, in my opinion, one of the most vital points in the endeavour to control Tuberculosis. I hold strongly the view that it is the undiagnosed and the uneducated cases of Tuberculosis that are the prime factors in spreading this disease.

The cases admitted to Scapa are not picked cases, some are admitted for education, any better result not to be expected. Advanced and hopeless cases are admitted when it is imperative in order to preserve the health of the other members of the family. It must be remembered that a Sanatorium is firstly a curative institution, and it is not desirable that any and every advanced case should be accommodated. Some can without doubt be nursed to the end in their own homes, provided precautions are taken and advice followed. It is in the homes of the poor, where there is probably overcrowding, the risks are not understood and advice on precautions to be taken either ignored or also not understood. This is the type of case which is capable of diffusing masses of infective material that is such a potent factor in spreading disease. Fortunately, Scapa Pavilion possesses four one-bed wards that suit this type of patient admirably, for the presence of a dying patient in a small ward has a most depressing and disastrous effect upon the morale of other patients.

The ideal method for caring for this advanced type of patient, who must of necessity be removed from their own home, is to have a separate building preferably in connection with a general hospital and where open air treatment could be carried out. Advanced cases will generally go to such a place, where violent opposition would be raised by relatives and patients alike if they were asked to go to an institution

that was known to be but a Home for the Dying. Such places have been established and have generally been failures.

A few words as to the Treatment adopted at Scapa Pavilion. The essential points are rest, absolute or partial, according to the case; good and sufficient food; fresh air; and light exercises when such are suitable to the patients' powers. In the summer weather I hope to be able to get those fit for it to make and keep gardens. This keeps them interested and at the same time gives a certain amount of gentle exercise.

The approximate total yearly cost of upkeep of Scapa Pavilion works out at about £800; this figure includes salaries of staff. The cost per head averages about 11s per week for maintenance, including staff.

Hospital Treatment.—23 cases in all were admitted to various hospitals.

TABLE T.6.

Name of Hospital.	Lungs.	Cerv. Glands.	Joints.	Bone.	Skin.	Total.
Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh...	—	2*	—	—	—	2
Sick Children's Hospital, Edin.	—	—	1	—	—	1
Balfour Hospital, Kirkwall ...	—	3	—	1	—	4
King Edward VII Sanatorium, Midhurst	1	—	—	—	—	1
King George V Sanatorium, Hampshire	1	—	—	—	—	1
Scapa Tuberculosis Pavilion, St. Ola	9	—	1	2	2	14
Totals.....	11	5	2	3	2	23

* Two patients notified prior to 1925.

DOMICILIARY TREATMENT.

This feature of the Tuberculosis Scheme is one of great importance, and as far as I am able, I endeavour to carry out some of its objects. But in a widespread county such as Orkney, the distances, difficulty of travelling, to say nothing of the expense incurred, makes it quite impossible to do all that should be done as I have no staff to call on to help in this matter.

It would be well to point out what a vast amount of work this part of the Tuberculosis Scheme entails and the object of it.

A. All cases must be visited as soon as possible.

1. To ascertain the exact condition of the patient.
2. To examine where possible other members of the household.

3. To find out if there is risk to the other inmates and to advise precautionary measures.
4. To consult when necessary the Doctor in attendance as to the best course of treatment.
5. To find out if the family is in such circumstances that help is required under the Scheme.
6. To examine generally the surroundings, the mode of life and occupation of the patient.

B. All cases on the Register are visited at intervals.

1. To find out changes in physical condition.
2. To see if all precautionary measures are being carried out faithfully.
3. To see if relief is still needed, or more added.
4. By thus visiting one is able to keep trace of change of address, arrested or cured disease, in order to keep the Register of cases up to date.

You will thus see what a lot of work this part of the Scheme entails, for in most cases a careful examination has to be made, and numerous notes taken, advice given, and also a fair amount of correspondence either with relatives or the patients' Doctors. It is quite impossible to carry out this branch of the Scheme as efficiently as it should be done, without the help of Nurses and Health Visitors, as there are many other duties requiring my attention.

The relief issued to patients is of two kinds:—

1. Free drugs and dressings.
2. Food, such as milk, butter, eggs, meat.

The total value of the above not to exceed 10s. weekly.

Forty-five patients receive Domiciliary Treatment. Mainland 21, North Isles 2, South Ronaldshay 1, Walls 5, Kirkwall Burgh 16.

Relief was granted as follows:—

Food only, 2.

Food and Drugs, 3.

Drugs and Dressings, 40; making the total 45.

The cost of special foods supplied to Tuberculous patients during 1925 amounted to £52 19s. 11d.

482 prescriptions for drugs and dressings were given during the year. The total cost amounted to £57 7s. 11., and the average price per prescription was 28'58d. Thus it will be seen that the total cost of the Tuberculosis Scheme amounts to the sum of £910 7s. 10d.

During the year I paid 199 visits to notified cases already on the register and visited 26 of the 37 cases notified during the year, thus practically bringing the register almost completely up to date. It was quite impossible to get through all the recorded cases, but by the end of 1926 I hope to have a complete record of the existing cases and any new cases.

The Bacteriological work for the year was as follows:—

Examination of Phlegm for Tuberculous Bacillus, 36.
Positive, 15. Negative, 21.

Examination for Diphtheria Bacillus, 2. Positive, nil.
Negative, 2.

Blood examinations for Typhoid Bacillus furnished inconclusive evidence.

6 samples of milk examined for the Tubercle Bacillus, by inoculation of animals. The report of the Analyst was negative to the Tubercle Bacillus in each case. These samples were of mixed milk in course of delivery.

Venereal Diseases Scheme.—4 new cases were dealt with. 16 attendances were made at the Royal Infirmary Centre, Aberdeen. Laboratory examinations numbered 12. Positive 3. Negative 9.

Water Supply.—During the year 9 samples of water were taken for Analysis. The districts were as follows:—

Westray, 1. Public Supply. Well.

Stonsay, 3. Public Supply. 2 wells and 1 from the water service belonging to Col. Balfour.

Holm, 2. 1 well and 1 spring.

Kirkwall, 1. Public service.

The above waters were all returned as pure and fit for domestic service.

The water from a well at Graemsay was condemned, as was also the water from a well being sunk at Sanday.

I desire to lay before you the feasibility of a water supply to some of the larger villages in the County. These villages are at present entirely dependent on well water, and a good supply of water can be got for each of the following villages: Westray, Finstown, Holm. In the latter village there appears to be thousands of gallons of good water running to waste. Westray can also provide abundant water either from the Loch above the village or a special catchment area.

With reference to Finstown I believe my predecessor produced a Scheme for Water Supply, but the expense frightened the Parish, and no doubt the provision of a Public Water Supply does cost a lot of money, but a pure and plentiful water supply is a most necessary thing to a community and is worth paying for.

SCAVENGING OF VILLAGES OR HAMLETS.

The general condition of the streets of these small places is generally satisfactory. During my term of office I have visited the following places on two or more occasions:—

St. Margaret's Hope; Pierowall, Westray; Kettletoft, Sanday; and Whitehall, Stronsay.

On the mainland I include Finstown, Holm, and I have with the exception of Whitehall, Stronsay (see Report for North Isles District) been struck with the general tidiness of the thoroughfare through and in connection with these villages; one does not see paper and straw and other rubbish blowing about. It may be due to the general tidiness of the inhabitants, or it may be that these villages have a real live Parish Council who carries out the duties laid down by Act of Parliament.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

These have been regularly visited and inspected by myself and also by the County Veterinary Inspector. They are generally kept clean.

I am not at all satisfied that the cattle and sheep, not many as a rule of the former, are properly inspected by the local inspectors. Enquiry elicited the fact that they are not always present at the slaughter, and often it is some hours after the slaughtering before they get to the slaughter house. I find that these Inspectors are really inadequately paid, and if they

are engaged on other work of their own they will finish that before they go to the Slaughter House. That information was given me by one of the Inspectors. In view of the importance of proper supervision at the slaughter houses, I think this question of payment for Meat Inspection should receive some attention by the Council.

I would also suggest that the Council adopt a Bye-law making it compulsory that a gun be used in the slaughter of every animal and thus avoid unnecessary cruelty, for to me it seems cruel and causing unnecessary suffering to slowly bleed an animal to death; perhaps there may be reasons for it, but I know of none, and in those animals which are pole axed, it is not an unknown thing for the butcher to miss his mark.

Number of inspections made by Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector for the year—44.

Total amount of Meat condemned, 6 cwts. on account of Tuberculosis. This was all on Mainland.

The Burgh of Kirkwall is not included in the above.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The Inspectors during the year have taken for Analysis nine samples under the above Act. The samples taken were as follows, with results:—

<i>Sample.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
Butter	3	Genuine.
Whisky	1	Genuine.
Cream of Tartar	1	Genuine.
Milk	4	{ 2 to standard. 2 deficient in fat.

In regard to milk, one prosecution was ordered and one conviction followed.

I cannot too strongly impress on the Council the fact that in every case where the milk analysis does not come up to the legal standard a prosecution should be undertaken. Milk is a valuable food for infants and young children, and much damage to the health of these infants can arise when the milk supplied to it as food is lacking in the most vital constituent.

I would also like to see a greater number and a more varied assortment of samples taken. The Board of Agriculture recommended 3 samples per 1000 population yearly. This would give according to the population of the County about 60 samples yearly, or 5 samples per month.

If that figure were followed it would be easy to get in a much wider range; such articles as margarine, cheese, cocoa, sugar, jam, flour, sausages, potted meats (for preservatives) are all food articles in daily use and should be sampled occasionally, but the two chief foodstuffs—milk and butter—should be more frequently taken.

MAINLAND DISTRICT

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

The **estimated population** for the year was 8,459.

The **area** of the district is 121,057 acres, and the **average density of the population** 6·9 persons to each 100 acres.

Births registered amounted to 126. Of these 9 were transferred from and 5 transferred to other districts, making the **net births** 130—males 72, females 58—and equal to a **birth rate** of 15·4 per 1000 of the population. The births in each Parish were as follows:—Birsay 16, Deerness 10, Evie and Rendall 14, Firth 8, Harray 11, Holm 14, Orphir 14, St. Andrews 11, St. Ola 12, Sandwick 13, Stenness 6, Stromness 6. Total 135.

Illegitimate births numbered 5, or 3·8% of the net births, as against 3 or 2·8% in the previous year.

Under the Births Notification Act, 1915, 117 births were notified, including 3 still-births.

Deaths registered amounted to 139, and after making the necessary corrections the **net deaths** numbered 152, giving a **crude death rate** of 15·4 per 1000 of the population. This death rate when further adjusted for age and sex distribution is reduced to 12·2.

There were 7 deaths under one year, giving an **infant mortality rate** of 54 per 1000 births. The causes of deaths were—Congenital Pyloric 1, Marasmus 1, Tuberculosis 1, Premature Birth 1, Immaturity at Birth 1, Cillielitis 1, Otitis Media 1.

Deaths Registered were allocated as follows:—Birsay 21, Deerness 12, Evie and Rendall 19, Firth 6, Harray 9, Holm 9, Orphir 12, St. Andrews 5, St. Ola 14, Sandwick 5, Stenness 4, Stromness 13. Total 139. Two deaths were uncertified, and 17 occurred in institutions:—Orkney County Home (Kirkwall) 1, Royal Asylum (Edinburgh) 3, Balfour Hospital (Kirkwall) 7, Royal Infirmary (Aberdeen) 1, Sick Children's

Hospital (Aberdeen) 1, Royal Infirmary (Glasgow) 1, Scapa Tuberculosis Pavilion 3.

There were 38 **marriages** during the year, giving a **marriage** rate of 4·5 per 1000 of the population.

50 **conscientious objections** to vaccination were recorded.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The birth rate has again decreased. In 1920 it stood at 20·3 per 1000 population. This year 1925 it stands at 15·4 per 1000 population. The illegitimate birth rate has slightly increased, but the rate has gradually fallen the last few years.

The death rate also shews a slight increase, but the figures for the last few years has not shown much variation.

For comments on Causes of Death I refer you to remarks made on County as a whole.

TABLE M.—DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CAUSES AND AGE

PERIODS.

Cause of Death.	Net Deaths	Age												M. F.
		-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 and over	
1. Enteric Fever ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Typhus Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Diphtheria ...	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—
8. Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Encephalitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Other Epidemic Diseases ...	7	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—
12. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Tuberculous Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Tuberculosis of Intestines and Peritoneum ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Other Tuberculous Disease ...	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Malignant Tumours ...	9	11	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	6	8	3	—	—
17. Rheumatic Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Meningitis (not Cer. Spin. or Tuberculous)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19. Apoplexy ...	15	4	11	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	5	4	—
20. Heart Disease...	31	13	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	7	12	8	—
21. Disease of Arteries ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. Bronchitis ...	14	1	13	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	7
23. Pneumonia (all forms) ...	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	1
24. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis ...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. All Diseases of Liver (not Malignant)	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
28. Nephritis, Acute and Chronic	5	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—
29. Puerperal Sepsis ...	2	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Other Dis. and Acc. of Preg. and Parturition	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Dis. of Early Infancy, and Malformations	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33. Other Violent Deaths ...	5	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—
34. Other Defined Disease ...	24	15	9	2	1	—	—	—	1	3	3	2	4	7
35. Causes Ill-defined or Unknown ...	6	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	1	—
All Causes ...	152	68	84	7	2	2	1	4	3	4	4	14	19	28

Notifiable Infectious Disease.—20 notifications were received.

TABLE M. I.—NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Year	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Chickenpox.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	Malaria.	Ac. Anterior Poliomyelitis	Acute Lobar Pneumonia.	Tuberculosis.			
										Pulmonary	Other forms	Pulmonary and others	Acute Influen- zal Pneumonia
1912	1	11	11	—	3	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
1913	—	29	6	—	8	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—
1914	1	11	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	13	4	—	—
1915	—	9	—	12	3	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—
1916	1	30	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	12	1	—	—
1917	2	25	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	9	—	—	—
1918	2	15	9	—	2	1	—	—	—	5	1	—	—
1919	1	13	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—
1920	—	26	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—
1921	1	7	6	2	1	1	1	—	—	4	4	—	—
1922	—	5	2	—	3	1	—	—	1	14	14	—	—
1923	2	7	1	8	4	—	—	1	1	9	28	—	—
1924	—	23	1	—	1	—	1	2	2	24	40+	6	2
1925	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	3	6	6	—	—

† Two notifications were withdrawn.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.—Orphir 1, St. Ola 1.

Enteric Fever.—Holm 1.

Puerperal Fever.—Orphir 1, Evie and Rendall 1.

Tuberculosis—Pulmonary.—Stenness 2, Deerness 1, Firth 1, Evie and Rendall 1, Stromness 1.

Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary.—Firth 1, Holm 2, St. Andrews 2, St. Ola 1.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Regarding the case notified as Typhoid Fever, I have commented on this case in my remarks of the County as a whole. The County is exceedingly free from this disease, only 12 cases being notified since the year 1912.

Tuberculosis.—Notified for the year 6 cases of Pulmonary disease—a most pronounced drop on the previous year.

In connection with these cases:—

2 died soon after notification.

1 case admitted to Scapa Pavilion and discharged, with totally arrested disease.

1 case the diagnosis is doubtful.

1 case shews improvement in general condition.

Of the Non-Pulmonary notifications:—

- 1 case of Diseased Bone admitted to Scapa Pavilion and discharged cured.
- 1 case Diagnosis revised.
- 2 cases Glands—Both cured.

Dealing with the notifications of 1924, all the lung cases have been visited during the year, and the following is a summary of my records:—

Improved 1, Arrested 3.

Eleven others on careful examination shewed no signs or symptoms of disease, and appeared in good general health.

Of the cases other than Pulmonary five appeared to be cured, four improved.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

An epidemic of Measles and Whooping Cough during the year went throughout the District, but fortunately both were of a mild nature and no deaths were returned as due to these diseases or its complications.

TABLE M. II.—SHOWING SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF CASES NOTIFIED SINCE 1912.

Year.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.							Other forms of Tuberculosis.						
	Number Notified.	Died.	Left the District.	Diagnosis Revised.	Disease Arrested.	No disc'vl Disease.	On List 31/12/25.	Number Notified.	Died.	Left the District.	Diagnosis Revised.	Disease Arrested.	No disc'vl Disease.	On List 31/12/25.
1912	5	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1913	9	5	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1914	13	11	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	3	—	—
1915	8	7	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1916	12	11	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
1917	9	7	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1918	5	4	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
1919	11	9	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1920	5	4	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1921	4	2	1	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
1922	14	9	1	—	2	1	1	14	3	—	—	3	—	8
1923	9	3	3	—	1	1	1	28	2	—	1	6	2	17
1924	30	7	8	1	1	10	5	40	1	1	4	1	—	33
1925	6	2	—	—	—	—	4	6	1	—	—	2	—	3
	140	85	12	1	13	13	16	98	8	1	5	16	2	66

In accordance with the instructions of the Scottish Board of Health, the following table is given to show the number of rooms in houses in which notifiable infectious disease occurred during the year:—

Disease.	No. of Families Cases. Affected.		INFECTED HOUSES. Number of Rooms.						over 6
			1	2	3	4	5	6	
Puerperal Fever	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pneumonia	3	3	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
Ac. Ant. Polio.	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Enteric Fever	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—									
Pulmon.	6	6	—	1	3	—	1	1	—
Others	6	6	1	—	2	—	2	1	—

HOUSING.

Six new houses were built during the year by the help of the Housing Subsidy. In only one of these was it possible to provide a large and free supply of water. The others depend on rain and wells.

It is to be regretted that so few new houses are being built, but if the benefits of a modern house were better known I think more would go up to replace the old and dilapidated cottages that are so numerous throughout the Mainland.

One house was condemned during the year and 14 were visited and inspected for records.

The work for putting the condemned house into fair order will be commenced as soon as weather conditions permit.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Five private slaughter houses are on the Register. All have been visited and inspected by the Medical Officer of Health during the year and also by the Sanitary Inspector. They are kept generally clean, and only on one occasion have I had to draw the attention of the owner to the Bye-Law on the matter of slaughter houses.

The Veterinary Inspector reports that one carcase only was seized and condemned as unfit for food.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, &c.

I refer you to the remarks made by the Veterinary Inspector on these in his report.

MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.

Mainland District—County of Orkney.

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Section 23.—The Medical Officer of every Local Supervising Authority shall report annually to that Authority on the administration of the Act within the District of the Local Authority, and he shall transmit a copy of such report to the Board and to the Scottish Board of Health.

- (1) List of MIDWIVES who have, up to 31st January, 1926, given notice under Section 18, of their intention to practice in the District:—

Hannah Bews Ritch Muir, C.M.B., No. 3784, School Pl., Kirkwall.
Margaret Fraser, C.M.B., No. 3705, Queen Street, Orphir.
Mary Pearson Thomson, C.M.B., No. 6275, 15 East Road, Kirkwall.

(2) BIRTHS—

(a) Total number of Births during 1925	117
(b) Births (including Still-births) notified 1925	117
(c) Deaths of new born children (within 10 days)	Nil
(d) Births attended by Midwives only	8
(e) Deaths within 10 days in the practice of midwives	Nil
(f) Cases not attended by Doctor or Midwife:—	
Births, <i>nil</i> . Deaths, <i>nil</i> .	

(3) OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—

(a) Cases during 1925	Nil
(b) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(c) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	Nil

(4) PUERPERAL SEPSIS—

(a) Cases during 1925	Nil
(b) Total number of deaths	Nil
(c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(d) Deaths in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(e) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	Nil

(5) STILL-BIRTHS—

(a) Total number of cases during 1925	3
(b) Number notified	3
(c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives...	Nil

- (6) CASES OF EMERGENCY in which Medical Practitioners were called in under Section 22 of the Act... Nil

- (7) REMARKS.—The working of the Act is well carried out by the General Practitioners, births being well notified and without undue delay.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,
KIRKWALL, 1st February, 1926.

TO THE MAINLAND DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF ORKNEY.

REPORT by GEORGE STEVENSON, Sanitary Inspector for the
Mainland District, for the year to 31st December, 1925.

I beg to submit the following Report with regard to the sanitary condition of the Mainland District for the year to 31st December, 1925.

The water supply of the District is obtained from wells. Except in very dry seasons the supply is sufficient and generally of good quality. No disease has been traced thereto during the year. The water supply at the Village of Holm is at present under the consideration of the Committee.

The drainage, as formerly, is in fair sanitary condition. I received some complaints regarding foul ditches along the public roads caused by sewage from steadings. I experienced no difficulty in having the ditches cleaned.

The Licences for the Slaughterhouses in the District were renewed for another year. These houses as a general rule are kept in fair order. So far as I am aware, the provisions of the Slaughterhouse Bye-laws are being observed. As formerly, the carcasses of the animals slaughtered are inspected by Sub-Inspectors who have now been appointed Detention Officers. In any case where the Sub-Inspectors had any doubt as to the soundness of the carcase they wired for me to inspect it and grant a Certificate accordingly. One carcase was condemned during the year on account of Tuberculosis.

There were 22 Registered Cowsheds and Dairies in the District. They were regularly inspected.

These cowsheds have been gradually graded up for the last 20 years—a little done every summer—more light and ventilation were put into them last summer, and they are, in my opinion, in very good order for a country district like this, and I think will compare very favourably with any District in the North of Scotland.

The Dairywomen are particular in purchasing good cows with healthy udders, and do not expose for sale milk of any cow on the sick list or if the udder becomes affected with any disease. There were no cases of Tuberculosis of the udder last year, but one cow was shot for Tuberculosis of the lungs under the Tuberculosis Order of 1925.

It is very important that the people milking the cows and working with the milk should be healthy and cleanly themselves as well as the cows.

There were no Common Lodging Houses in the District.

A large number of Workshops were visited during the year and generally found in fair good order.

The household refuse is disposed of as formerly, and generally in a satisfactory manner.

The means of isolation of persons suffering from Infectious Diseases continue the same as formerly. The arrangement with the Balfour Hospital Trustees is still in operation. I supplied disinfectants and made arrangements for the cleaning and disinfection of houses, bedding, clothing, etc., and personally sprayed infected houses, furniture, bedding, etc., with formalin.

GEORGE STEVENSON,
District Sanitary Inspector.

NORTH ISLES DISTRICT

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

The **estimated population** for the year was 5985.

Area of the District is 64,329 acres, and the average density of the population 9·3 persons per 100 acres.

The **births registered** amounted to 95, of which two were sent to other districts, making the **net births** 93—males 38, females 55—and equal to a **birth rate** of 15·5 per 1000 of the population.

The births in each Registration District were as follows:—Eday 14, North Ronaldshay 3, Papa Westray 4, Rousay 13, Sanday 14, Shapansey 12, Stronsay 17, and Westray 18.

Illegitimate births numbered 4, or 4·3% of the total births, as against 7 or 6·99 in the previous year.

Under the Births Notification Act, 1915, 96 births were notified, including 2 still births.

Deaths registered amounted to 88, and after correction for transfers the **net deaths** were 91, giving a **crude death rate** of 14·7 per 1000 of the population. This death rate when further adjusted for age and sex distribution, is reduced to 10·1.

Deaths registered in each Registration District were as follows:—Eday 6, North Ronaldshay 3, Papa Westray 5, Rousay 6, Sanday 15, Shapansey 11, Stronsay 12, Westray 30. Total 88.

There were 4 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an **infant mortality rate** of 43 per 1000 births.

The Certified causes of deaths were:—Natural Causes 1, Marasmus 2, Intestinal Obstruction 1.

Two deaths were uncertified, and 2 deaths occurred in institutions—Balfour Hospital (Kirkwall) 1, Royal Infirmary (Edinburgh) 1.

There were 24 **marriages** during the year, giving a marriage rate of 4·0 per 1000 of the population.

Fifty-one **conscientious objections** to vaccination were recorded.

TABLE N.—DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CAUSES AND AGE PERIODS.

Cause of Death.	Net Deaths	M. F.	Age											85 and over	
			-1	1-	5-	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-		
1. Enteric Fever ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Typhus Fever ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Smallpox ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Measles ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Scarlet Fever ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Whooping Cough ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Diphtheria ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Influenza	10	4	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	4	2	—	
9. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
10. Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Other Epidemic Diseases... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	3	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
13. Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Tuberculosis of Intestines and Peritoneum ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Other Tuberculous Disease	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
16. Malignant Tumours	6	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	—	—	—	
17. Rheumatic Fever ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Meningitis (not Cer. Spin. or Tuberculous) ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19. Apoplexy	8	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
20. Heart Disease... ..	14	3	11	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	7	—	—	1	
21. Disease of Arteries ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. Bronchitis	4	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	
23. Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
24. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
25. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. All Diseases of Liver (not Malignant) ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis, Acute and Chronic	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	
29. Puerperal Sepsis ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Other Dis. and Acc. of Preg. and Parturition ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Dis. of Early Infancy, and Malformations	2	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
32. Suicide ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33. Other Violent Deaths	4	4	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
34. Other Defined Disease	32	18	14	1	2	—	1	1	—	1	2	2	12	10	
35. Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
All Causes	91	44	47	4	2	—	—	2	5	3	1	7	17	33	17

Notifiable Infectious Disease.—Ten notifications were received.

TABLE N. I.—NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Year.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Chickenpox.	Erysipelas.	Puerperal Fever.	Malaria.	Dysentery.	Acute Lobar Pneumonia.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Tuber.	
											Pulmonary	Other forms
1912	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
1913	—	12	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
1914	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
1915	—	5	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	2	2
1916	—	52	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	—
1917	—	15	18	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
1918	—	34	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
1919	—	6	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
1920	2	12	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	8	3
1921	1	3	1	—	3	—	—	1	—	—	6	3
1922	1	18	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	6	3
1923	—	10	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	13	7
1924	—	3	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	20	6
1925	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	6	—

Scarlet Fever.—Sanday 1.

Erysipelas.—Westray 1.

Pneumonia.—Eday 1, Sanday 1.

Tuberculosis—Pulmonary.—Papa Westray 1, Sanday 1, Shapansey 1, Stronsay 1, Eday and Pharay 2. Treated in hospital 3.

TABLE N. II.—SHOWING SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF CASES NOTIFIED SINCE 1912.

Year.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.					Other forms of Tuberculosis.						
	Number Notified.	Died.	Left the District.	Diagnosis Revised.	Disease Arrested.	On List 31/12/25.	Number Notified.	Died.	Left the District.	Diagnosis Revised.	Disease Arrested.	On List 31/12/25.
1912	9	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1913	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1914	4	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
1915	2	2	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—
1918	8	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1917	7	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1918	9	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1919	4	3	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
1920	6	4	1	—	1	—	3	3	—	—	—	—
1921	6	2	—	—	4	—	6	—	2	—	3	1
1922	8	3	—	1	1	1	3	1	—	—	1	1
1923	13	9	1	—	1	2	7	—	1	—	1	5
1924	20	5	2	1	4	10*	6	—	1	1	1	3
1925	6	2	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
	103	65	6	2	14	18*	29	5	4	1	8	11

* 2 transferred from other districts.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Total 10. The only one of these I desire to comment on is Tuberculosis, of which 6 cases were notified. All the cases were Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

- 2 died the year of notification.
- 1 case has greatly improved.
- 1 case, that of an aged man, is stationary.
- 1 case the disease is active.
- 1 case has left the county for New Zealand.

Studying Table N. II. you will observe that in 1923 and 1924 there was a big advance in the numbers notified, so it is gratifying to note the figure for the year 1925 is again a low one. You will note that since 1912 to 1925 a total of 103 pulmonary cases have been notified, and of these cases 16 are still on the register. The intermediate columns explain this figure.

In accordance with the instructions of the Scottish Board of Health the following table is given to show the number of rooms in houses in which notifiable infectious diseases occurred during the year.

Disease.	No of Families Cases. Affected.		INFECTED HOUSES. Number of Rooms						over
			1	2	3	4	5	6	
Scarlet Fever	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis—									
Pulmon.	6	6	—	—	2	2	1	1	—

HOUSING.

The site of one new house to be built under the Subsidy Scheme was inspected and passed. The building will in due course be completed. Ten houses were inspected and records taken. One was condemned, there was already a closing order on this house, and the work of erecting a new dwelling as expeditiously as possible was recommended by me at one of the Committee Meetings. The work was then taken in hand and a suitable dwelling erected.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, MILKSHOPS.

Three are on the Register. All have been inspected and no contraventions were dealt with.

Slaughter Houses.—Satisfactory and kept clean. Ten visits paid by Medical Officer of Health in addition to visits by Sanitary Inspector. No meat was seized during the year.

The bakehouses have been regularly inspected as also have the workshops and the offal factory. No defaults have been observed. Number of inspections made by Medical Officer of Health, 19. The inspectors also pay frequent visits, 30 inspections being recorded for the year.

Stronsay.—During the year the offal factory was completed and opened. It is fitted with every modern convenience for dealing with the fish offal (which is converted into manure) so as to prevent as far as possible the objectionable odour which is the most frequent cause of nuisance. The premises are kept reasonably clean, and on each of my visits I could not find anything to complain of. The odour arising is without doubt reduced to a minimum. I have no doubt it will help to do away with the nuisance that has existed in previous years of the fish offal being dumped on the foreshore, above high water mark, and the offal dumps or piles at most of the stations, which, on my first visit to Stronsay for inspection made early in the year, I found most of them contained a great quantity of the offal left at the end of the fishing season. Several visits were paid by me during the fishing season with a view to see what was happening. Frequently I found the offal being dumped on the foreshore, some of the drains from the curing stations opening practically on the roadside nearest the sea. The same thing applies to the foreshore of the houses in Whitehall Village who have drains, most do not go down far enough. The foreshore of this village is the dumping ground for all refuse, and on each of my visits was a disgrace to the village. There appears to be no scavenging of the streets, and one is confronted by herrings lying around to rot or get tramped into the mud. The Public Latrines are a nuisance and a source of danger, being almost entirely neglected. The Sanitary Inspector does his best in this matter, but the defaulter is the man employed to do the duties, and owing to scarcity of labour no other man can be found to do the work. As regards the curing stations, and the sanitation thereof, the water supply is far too small to allow of the cleansing of the part of the station that could be hosed down. The Sanitary arrangements provided are not sufficient and some of them are in most undesirable places, and moreover none of them are properly and regularly attended to. I would suggest for your consideration that the Scavenging Bye-Laws which you adopted some years ago be at once put into operation, and that there be no further delay in adopting the Bye-Laws dealing with Seasonal Workers that I laid before you early in the year. That steps be taken to ensure that the village has an adequate water supply and not to be dependent on two village pumps. Some of the houses take water from the supply provided by Col. Balfour, but this

supply has been refused to several who asked for it to be laid on to their houses. I gather the reason for this is that the supply is a small one, the collecting area is what might be described as a big ditch, hence all the water is required for the fishing fleet and curers. During the summer this year there was a shortage, so had the village been dependent on this supply, the water would have given out sooner. There is the possibility of a good supply being obtained from a catchment area a little distance out from Whitehall which I think should be gone further into.

STRONSAY SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Visited and inspected frequently by the Sanitary Inspector. I also inspected on my visits. They are kept clean. When the fishing season started it was suddenly found necessary to request that another old slaughter house be re-opened, as the one in Whitehall could not kill for all as it had not sufficient hanging accommodation. I would suggest that in view of the importance of the Meat Regulations and the great necessity that all beasts be examined at the time of killing, that the present slaughter house in Whitehall Village be acquired by the North Isles District Committee and made into a Public Slaughter House. Some enlargement of the storage would be required no doubt, and other structural alterations, but in view of the increased amount of killing during the fishing season such a step is advisable, for the other slaughter house is distant some three miles and it is impossible for the inspector to do more than a casual visit to this place.

MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.

North Isles District—County of Orkney.

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Section 23.—The Medical Officer of every Local Supervising Authority shall report annually to that Authority on the administration of the Act within the District of the Local Authority, and he shall transmit a copy of such report to the Board and to the Scottish Board of Health.

- (1) List of MIDWIVES who have, up to 31st January, 1926, given notice under Section 18, of their intention to practice in the District:—

Edith Plumbly, C.M.B., No. 2771, Papa Westray.

(2) BIRTHS—

(a) Total number of Births during 1925	96
(b) Births (including Still-births) notified 1925	96
(c) Deaths of new born children (within 10 days)	3
(d) Births attended by Midwives only	4
(e) Deaths within 10 days in the practice of midwives	Nil
(f) Cases not attended by Doctor or Midwife:—	

Births, *nil*. Deaths, *nil*.

(3) OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—

(a) Cases during 1925	Nil
(b) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(c) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	Nil

(4) PUERPERAL SEPSIS—

(a) Cases during 1925	Nil
(b) Total number of deaths	Nil
(c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(d) Deaths in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(e) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	Nil

(5) STILL-BIRTHS—

(a) Total number of cases during 1925	2
(b) Number notified	2
(c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives... ..	Nil

- (6) CASES OF EMERGENCY in which Medical Practitioners were called in under Section 22 of the Act... .. Nil

- (7) REMARKS.—The working of the Act is carried out by the Local Practitioners.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,
KIRKWALL, 1st February, 1926.

TO THE NORTH ISLES DISTRICT COMMITTEE OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL OF ORKNEY.

REPORT by GEORGE STEVENSON, Sanitary Inspector for the
North Isles District for the year to 31st December, 1925.

I beg to submit the following Report with regard to the sanitary condition of the North Isles District for the year to 31st December, 1925.

The Water Supply of the District is obtained from wells, and is generally of fair quality. There was no scarcity of water last year except at the Village of Whitehall, Stronsay, where there was a great shortage during the fishing season.

The Fishing Stations in Stronsay were visited and found in fair good condition. A first-class Manure Manufactory was erected last year which disposed of herring offal in a satisfactory manner. This prevented any accumulation of offensive matter throughout the Island or at the Stations.

There is nothing particular to report regarding the drainage of the District.

The Workshops visited were in good order.

The household refuse is disposed of by the householders themselves, and generally in a satisfactory manner.

The Slaughterhouses were visited and found fairly clean and in good order. Very few cattle were killed during the year, only some sheep, except in Stronsay during the fishing season when a number of cattle were killed. Some of the merchants in the Islands took nearly all the beef they sold from Kirkwall. A whole carcase would be too much for their trade. Some of the Kirkwall butchers sent small supplies to customers direct.

The three Registered Cowsheds in the Island of Stronsay were found to be clean and in good order. The milk from these Dairies is delivered in carts to people in Whitehall Village and the Lower Station.

GEORGE STEVENSON,
District Sanitary Inspector.

WALLS DISTRICT

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

The **estimated population** for the year was 1414.

The **area** of the district is 41,658 acres, and the **average density of population** 3·3 persons per 100 acres.

Births registered amounted to 18—males 9, females 9—there was 1 transfer, making the **net births** for the District 19, and equal to a **birth rate** of 13·4 per 1000 of the population.

The births in each District were as follows:—Flotta 5, Hoy and Graemsay 1, Walls 13.

There was one **illegitimate birth** during the year, or 5·3% of the total births.

Deaths registered amounted to 19, and after correction for transfers, the **net deaths** were 18—males 13, females 5—giving a **crude death rate** of 13·4 per 1000 of the population. When further adjusted for age and sex distribution this is reduced to 8·5.

Deaths are allocated to each District as follows:—Flotta 3, Hoy and Graemsay 4, Walls 11.

There was one death of infant under one year of age. Cause of death—Premature Birth 1.

One death was uncertified. One death occurred in institution:—Balfour Hospital 1.

Six **marriages** took place during the year, equal to a **marriage rate** of 4·2 per 1000 of the population.

Conscientious objections to vaccination numbered 6.

TABLE M.—DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CAUSES
AND AGES.

Causes of Death.	Net Deaths	Age													
		M. F.	-1	1-	5	10-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	85 and over	
1. Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2. Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
3. Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
4. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
6. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
7. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
8. Influenza	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
9. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
10. Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
11. Other Epidemic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
12. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	
13. Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
14. Tuberculosis of Intestines and Peritoneum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
15. Other Tuberculous Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
16. Malignant Tumours	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
17. Rheumatic Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
18. Meningitis (not Cer. Spin. or Tuberc.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
19. Apoplexy	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	
20. Heart Disease	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	
21. Diseases of Arteries	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
22. Bronchitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
23. Pneumonia (all forms)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
24. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
25. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
27. All Diseases of Liver (not Malignant)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
28. Nephritis, Acute and Chronic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
29. Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
30. Other Dis. and Acc. of Preg. and Parturition	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
31. Dis. of Early Infancy, and Malformations	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
32. Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
33. Other Violent Deaths	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
34. Other Defined Diseases	5	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	
35. Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
All Causes	18	13	5	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	9	1

Scarlet Fever.—Walls 1.

Tuberculosis—Pulmonary.—Longhope 3, Hoy 1.

Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary.—Graemsay 1, Hoy 1.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Other forms of Tuberculosis.

Year.	Number Notified	Died	Left the District	Diagnosis Revised	Disease Arrested	On List 31/12/25.	Number Notified	Died	Left the District	Diagnosis Revised	Disease Arrested	On List 31/12/25.
1918	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1919	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1920	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1921	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
1922	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1923	3	1	—	1	—	1	10	—	—	—	4	6
1924	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
1925	4	2	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	2
	12	8	—	1	—	3	14	1	1	—	4	8

In accordance with the instructions of the Scottish Board of Health the following table is given to show the number of rooms in houses in which notifiable infectious diseases occurred during the year.

during the year.			INFECTED HOUSES. Number of Rooms						
Disease.	No. of Cases.	Families Affected.							over
			1	2	3	4	5	6	6
Scarlet Fever	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis—									
Pulmon.	4	4	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
Others	2	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—

With reference to the Infectious Diseases the only figure I desire to draw your attention to is the one of Longhope, Tuberculosis 3. Of these cases 1 died, 1 case in my opinion is doubtful; with regard to the third case, on my visit of inspection and inquiry I found a most undesirable overcrowding, a small cottage, a big family, and the only ventilation came from a small skylight midway between the two rooms. One of the rooms was exceedingly damp and unfit for habitation. I subsequently removed three children from this house to Scapa Tuberculosis Pavilion who were suffering from Tuberculosis, had the house thoroughly disinfected and communicated with the owner as to putting the house into habitable condition. This was promised and no doubt will be carried out.

It is conditions such as the above that cause the spread of the disease, for there can be no doubt that the elder child infected the others under such conditions. This was partly unavoidable as when the eldest was first notified Scapa Pavilion was not in existence, and in future no such cases will stay at home under such conditions.

The Bakehouse has been regularly inspected by the Inspector and has been found in good condition. The usual routine duties of the Sanitary Inspector have been well carried out.

For **Vital Statistics**, see County Report.

MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.

Walls District—County of Orkney.

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Section 23.—The Medical Officer of every Local Supervising Authority shall report annually to that Authority on the administration of the Act within the District of the Local Authority, and he shall transmit a copy of such report to the Board and to the Scottish Board of Health.

- (1) List of MIDWIVES who have, up to 31st January, 1926, given notice under Section 18, of their intention to practice in the District:—
Nil.

(2) BIRTHS—

(a) Total number of Births during 1925	20
(b) Births (including Still-births) notified 1925	6
(c) Deaths of new born children (within 10 days)	1
(d) Births attended by Midwives only	<i>Nil</i>
(e) Deaths within 10 days in the practice of midwives	<i>Nil</i>
(f) Cases not attended by Doctor or Midwife:—	
Births, <i>nil.</i> Deaths, <i>nil.</i>	

(3) OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—

(a) Cases during 1925	<i>Nil</i>
(b) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	<i>Nil</i>
(c) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	<i>Nil</i>

(4) PUERPERAL SEPSIS—

(a) Cases during 1925	<i>Nil</i>
(b) Total number of deaths	<i>Nil</i>
(c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	<i>Nil</i>
(d) Deaths in the practice of Midwives	<i>Nil</i>
(e) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	<i>Nil</i>

(5) STILL-BIRTHS—

(a) Total number of cases during 1925	<i>Nil</i>
(b) Number notified	<i>Nil</i>
(c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	<i>Nil</i>

- (6) CASES OF EMERGENCY in which Medical Practitioners were called in under Section 22 of the Act... *Nil*

- (7) REMARKS.—The Medical Officers in this District are somewhat remiss in notifying births in this area. Six notifications only were received out of the 20 births that occurred.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,
KIRKWALL, 1st February, 1926.

CITY & ROYAL BURGH OF KIRKWALL

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

The **estimated population** for the year was 3587.

The **area** of the Burgh is 430 acres, and the **average density of population** 8·3 persons per acre.

Births registered amounted to 69. Three were transferred to other districts, making the **net births** 66—males 40 and females 26—and giving a **birth rate** of 18·4 per 1000 of the population.

Of these births 5 or 7·6% were **illegitimate**, as against 5 or 8·3% in the previous year.

Under the Births Notification Act, 1915, 67 births were notified, including 2 still-births.

Deaths registered amounted to 79. After making corrections for deaths transferred to and from other districts the **net deaths** amounted to 71, giving a **crude death rate** of 19·8 per 1000 of the population. This death rate when further adjusted for age and sex distribution is reduced to 14·2.

There were 5 deaths under one year, equal to an **infant mortality** rate of 91 per 1000 births.

The causes of death were:—Congenital Debility 1, Natural Causes 2, Asphyxia Neonatorum 1, Premature Birth 1.

All deaths were certified, and 7 occurred in Institutions—Balfour Hospital 1, Orkney County Home 1, Royal Asylum (Edinburgh) 3, Royal Infirmary (Edinburgh) 2.

There were 33 **marriages** during the year, giving a **marriage rate** of 9·2 per 1000 of the population.

Forty-two **conscientious objections** to vaccination were recorded.

TABLE K.—DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CAUSES AND AGE PERIODS.

Cause of Death.	Net Deaths	Age												85 and over
		M. F.	-1	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75-85	
1. Enteric Fever ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Typhus Fever ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Smallpox ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Measles	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Influenza	7	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	1	—
9. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Other Epidemic Diseases... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
12. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	2	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
13. Tuberculous Meningitis	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Tuberculosis of Intestines and Peritoneum ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Other Tuberculous Disease ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16. Malignant Tumours	6	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	2	—	—
17. Rheumatic Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Meningitis (not Cer. Spin. or Tuberculous) ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19. Apoplexy	11	6	5	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	3	3	1	—
20. Heart Disease... ..	8	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	1	—
21. Disease of Arteries ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. Bronchitis	4	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia (all forms)	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
24. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. All Diseases of Liver (not Malignant)	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis, Acute and Chronic ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
29. Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Other Dis. and Acc. of Preg. and Parturition	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Dis. of Early Infancy, and Malformations	3	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
32. Suicide	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33. Other Violent Deaths ... ..	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34. Other Defined Disease	14	3	11	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	3	2	5	—
35. Causes Ill-defined or Unknown	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
All Causes	71	28	43	6	1	—	1	4	1	5	13	16	14	10

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.—Nineteen notifications were received.

TABLE K.1.—NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Year.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	*Chicken- pox.	Erysipelas.	Continued Fever.	Dysentery.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Fever.	Acute Lobar Pneumonia	Tuber.	
											Pulmonary	Other forms Pulmonary & Other forms
1912	—	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
1913	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
1914	9	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
1915	—	15	2	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
1916	4	12	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	5
1917	—	10	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
1918	—	27	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	8	3
1919	—	33	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
1920	—	61	—	54*	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	2
1921	—	—	43	5*	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	4
1922	2	8	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	8
1923	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	7	25
1924	—	4	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	20	41*
1925	—	1	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	2	4

* One notification withdrawn.

Scarlet Fever.—One case. Treated in hospital.

Erysipelas.—Six cases.

Acute Pneumonia.—Six cases. One treated in hospital.

Tuberculosis—Pulmonary.—Two cases.

Tuberculosis—Non-Pulmonary.—Four cases.

TABLE K. 2.—SHOWING BIRTH AND DEATH RATES AND DEATHS FROM CANCER SINCE 1901.

Year.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.	Deaths from Cancer.
1911	21.0	18.6	187.5	6
1912	17.8 (average)	15.7 (average)	88.2 (average)	6
1913	17.6 18.2	14.3 17.4	77.0 92.9	8
1914	16.7	15.3	66.0	6
1915	17.7	23.2	46.0	7
1916	26.8	21.3	122.0	3
1917	25.4 (average)	15.3 (average)	108.0 (average)	3
1918	26.1 23.4	18.5 17.9	73.0 103.8	4
1919	16.6	20.5	148.0	3
1920	22.3	14.1	68.0	9
1921	17.6	15.7	92.3	10
1922	16.8 (average)	13.4 (average)	88.0 (average)	4
1923	18.5 17.6	15.2 14.6	75.0 79.2	5
1924	17.0	14.7	50.0	6
1925	18.4	14.2	91.0	6

In accordance with the instructions of the Scottish Board of Health the following table is given to show the number of rooms in houses in which notifiable infectious diseases occurred during the year.

TABLE K. 3.

Disease.	No. of Families Cases Affected		INFECTED HOUSES. Number of Rooms						over
			1	2	3	4	5	6	
Scarlet Fever	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia	6	6	—	—	—	2	—	1	3
Erysipelas	6	6	—	1	2	—	—	1	2
Tuberculosis—									
Pulmon.	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Others	4	4	—	2	1	—	—	—	1

TABLE K. IV.—SHOWING SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF CASES NOTIFIED SINCE 1912.

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.							Other forms of Tuberculosis.						
	Number Notified.	Died.	Left the District.	Diagnosis Revised.	Disease Arrested.	No disc'vl Disease.	On List 31/12/25.	Number Notified.	Died.	Left the District.	Diagnosis Revised.	Disease Arrested.	No disc'vl Disease.	On List 31/12/25.
1912	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1913	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1914	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1915	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1916	6	5	1	—	—	—	—	5	3	2	—	—	—	—
1917	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1918	8	7	1	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	1
1919	4	3	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1920	8	7	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—
1921	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	2	—	—	—	2
1922	5	2	1	—	2	—	—	8	4	—	—	3	—	1
1923	7	4	—	1	—	2	—	25	1	6	—	13	—	5
1924	21	6	5	—	2	6	2	41	1	9	1	15	1	14
1925	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	2	—	2	—	—
	78	52	8	1	6	8	3 ...	92	11	22	1	34	1	23

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The year can be regarded as a record one for the Burgh as far as Infectious Disease notifications. Table K.1 gives the list.

Tuberculosis.—During the year 2 cases of Pulmonary and 4 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified. Of the Lung Cases both were well advanced when notified. Both were removed to Scapa without delay and both cases died. Of the four non-pulmonary, two have left the County, and the other two cases can be regarded, one as cured after operation, and the other the disease is certainly arrested, if not definitely cured. During the year nearly all previous cases notified in

the Burgh have been visited, examinations have been made and notes taken for records, thus the register is now practically up to date. Removals have been traced when possible and those who have left the County struck off the register. In dealing with last year's notifications, viz., Lungs 21, Glands, etc., 41. The following is a summary of the cases at the end of 1925. Six of the Pulmonary cases have died since notification. Of the remainder three cases have become arrested, and the patients are able to resume work, one has left the County and in 10 cases the diagnosis has been revised. Dealing with other forms of Tuberculosis:—

Glandular Enlargement. Sixteen cases can be regarded as cured, several having received surgical treatment and others have subsided and disappeared under medical attention.

3 cases show definite decrease in size and can be regarded as arrested.

4 cases showed definite improvement.

1 Joint case—the disease is arrested.

1 Kidney case—the disease is arrested.

1 Tubercular Skin—improved.

9 cases have left the Burgh.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES ACTS.

The question of housing has during recent years engaged the public mind more than any other department of Public Health Administration. At the termination of the war the housing of the working classes was a reform which was considered urgent throughout the country. The shortage of houses which existed, the difficulties that faced the private builder led to the initiation of building schemes by Local Authorities, such schemes still going on. The Burgh of Kirkwall has done something but not enough in any way to solve the problem of lack of houses, or to diminish the great amount of overcrowding that exists, or to enable any of the unfit for habitation houses to be closed. Apart from Housing Schemes Local Authorities have to consider the question of housing from the point of view

- (1) The closure of houses which have become uninhabitable.
- (2) The improvement of houses which, though habitable, no longer come up to modern requirements.

Dealing with these two points, there are many houses that ought to be closed as unfit for human habitation, but in the absence of other accommodation no action can be taken in the matter. The closure of houses which under normal conditions would have been the subjects of a Closing Order is out of

the question, owing to the fact that every house in the Burgh is fully occupied, and dispossessed tenants would only if possible get in somewhere and intensify the overcrowding already existing. Until a big housing scheme is adopted or private enterprise makes a big move, I am afraid there is no prospect of dealing with any of the old and insanitary properties in the Burgh. Again, with the second point, I find many houses that are reasonably fit but do not meet modern requirements. On going into the question I am faced with two or three checks.

1. No possibility of fixing up modern requirements owing to lack of space.
2. Inability or want of desire to lay out the money for the necessary alterations. Much of this property brings in but a small rent and the necessary work costs a lot of money, and hence the unwillingness in many instances, but as far as my powers of observation go, and from what the occupiers of the houses tell me, many of the landlords have been drawing the rent for years and never spent a bit of it on the property, either inside or out. One man informed me that he had lived 25 years in the house and the landlord had never spent a penny on it, and this is so in many of the houses; it is the tenants themselves that replace wall-papers and a bit of paint now and again.

SLUM AREA CLEARANCE SCHEME.

During the year the sixteen two-roomed houses under this Scheme were finished and are now in occupation. This is the full allowance of two-roomed houses, and the next lot to be built are of three rooms. The number of these houses is eight. I hope the work of building these will soon be put in hand and the erection be proceeded with as expeditiously as possible, for the sooner the Area is cleared of its dwellers the better.

Closing Orders.—During the year 27 Closing Orders were made. These, with one exception, were all in connection with the Slum Clearance Area. The other was that of a vacant room I inspected and found necessary to close until put into a fit condition. Closing orders removed one. Total number of new houses erected during the year is 21. Three under Subsidy Scheme, one private enterprise, 17 by Town Council, including the Weir Steel House. Total number of houses inspected and records made, 62.

The standard of a habitable house is as follows:—

A fit house should be

- (1) Free from serious dampness.
- (2) Satisfactorily lighted and ventilated.
- (3) Drained and provided with adequate sanitary arrangements, sink and arrangements for disposing of slop water.
- (4) In good general repair.
- (5) Should have adequate water supply.
- (6) Adequate arrangements whereby the ordinary household duties can be carried out.
- (7) A well ventilated food store.

Those who know the Burgh well will know how far short of the standard many of the houses are.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

There are 25 persons on the Register as purveyors of milk (retail). Of these four have shops and twelve have cow sheds within the Burgh. Dealing with the four shops that retail milk, none of them in my opinion have proper storage accommodation. The shops in question are "general stores" and the milk sold is kept in the shop. This is not the place for milk to be stored. The quantity of milk dealt with is small, but such shops are not the place where milk should be sold as it is impossible under the conditions not to infringe the Bye-Laws dealing with Dairies and Milk.Stores, and under the Milk and Dairies (Scotland) Act, 1914, the premises have now to be registered and possibly the new regulations that are to be adopted will improve the conditions under which milk can be sold. Of the 12 cowkeepers and milk retailers in the Burgh, most of these have been inspected by me during the year, in addition to the inspection carried out by Mr. Stevenson. The milk stores in most are a long way from being A.1, and the provision made for cleansing the milk cans is very unsatisfactory and totally inadequate to thoroughly sterilize and cleanse the utensils. Much might be written on this subject, but it is certain the Dairymen will have to make better arrangements when they re-register under the afore-mentioned Act. Number of Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector, 106. I also have paid several visits during the year.

Under the Food and Drugs Act.—Eight samples of milk were analysed, all being found genuine. Three samples of mixed milk were taken during the year and examined for the Tubercle Bacillus. The report on all was negative to the said Bacillus. I think as regards the samples taken for analysis that other foods should also be taken; to mention a few that are equally important, such as Milk, Butter, Cheese, Margarine, Cocoa, samples of all these should be taken during the year.

WATER SUPPLY.

One sample was analysed and found to be pure and fit in all respects for a public source. During the summer months the reservoir got decidedly low and the supply of water was somewhat curtailed. This appears to have some great importance on the future, for if the Burgh as a whole was brought up to modern standard and all houses were directly connected up, all modern conveniences installed in connection with a water supply, the supply might not be sufficient for the demand, and, given a dry summer, the supply without doubt would fall short much earlier than was the case this year. No doubt many of you have already thought of the future of the Burgh as regards its water supply, but it is worthy of some discussion by the full Council, for a scanty water supply is a menace to the health of any community, but if in addition, the supply has to be drastically curtailed in the hot summer months the menace is greatly increased.

PUBLIC SLAUGHTER HOUSE.

I have visited on several occasions for purpose of inspection. It is kept clean and the meat I have seen and inspected at the time of my visits has all been quite sound and fit for human consumption. With reference to the Meat Regulations issued by the Scottish Board of Health there is not much to be done. The butchers in the Burgh wear overalls, washable, which are generally clean. No meat is exposed outside their shops, and the shops, chopping blocks, etc., are kept in a cleanly state. The necessity for cold storage does not seem to arise, for our summers are generally not of such a heat that meat will go bad quickly. Enquiries in connection with meat that goes by the travelling vans into the county districts shews that all meat sent by vans for delivery or sale is properly and carefully wrapped up, and there is absolutely no risk of contamination. Total number of Inspections 405, carcasses inspected 800, leading to the condemning of 14 whole and parts of carcasses—weight 2 tons 10 cwt. 92 lbs., over 2 tons being seized for Tuberculosis. With reference to the removal of meat from the Slaughter House, I would advise that regulations be issued:—

- (1) That the meat itself be wrapped in clean cloth.
- (2) That it then be totally covered by a clean covering, preferably of a material that can be periodically washed.
- (3) That the trucks used to remove the meat be at all times kept clean and well washed.

Whilst on the subject of Clean Food, I hope the day is not far distant when strong regulations will be put into force dealing with many other articles of food that at present are equally or more exposed to contamination. A visit round the stores and shops on one of Orkney's wild, dusty days will show how exposed the foodstuffs are. Bread is one of the first that should come on the list, and it should be compulsory that bread should be wrapped up as soon as it is possible to do so after leaving the oven, for this is probably the most handled (and not always with clean hands) food sold. Personally, I believe that the baker who adopted this clean method would increase his business, for I think many people would change their baker and purchase bread that was known to be absolutely clean. My experience of bread arriving at some of the North Islands shews me the real necessity for wrapping it up.

SCAVENGING OF STREETS.

The main thoroughfare of the Burgh is the business centre, comprising Bridge Street, Albert Street, Broad Street, Victoria Street and Main Street, Junction Road and Harbour Street. These streets are swept daily and kept in as clean a condition as possible.

Regarding the scraping of the roads I would suggest that the mud cart follows the scrapers and promptly removes the scrapings, for I have noticed on several occasions dumps of liquid and semisolid mud in the gutters, and judging from the footprints I have observed, many people must tread in these heaps of mud when the night falls. These dumps of mud are left for too long a period on occasions.

COLLECTION OF REFUSE.

The refuse of the Burgh is collected daily and removed in covered carts. I have often noticed these carts daily going along with the lids open, or else too much refuse and not able to close. Thus, instructions should be again given to the collectors to see that the lids are shut down. I desire to draw

the Council's attention to Bye-Law No. 3, of the Burgh Cleansing Bye-Laws. It is as follows:—

“The occupiers of premises within the Burgh shall respectively provide themselves with a suitable box or pail, or boxes or pails, of sufficient size to contain the refuse of their premises, provided with a proper lid or cover, and to be approved of by the Inspector of Cleansing. The boxes or pails shall be kept in good state of repair and thoroughly clean, and when filled shall not be of greater weight than one man can conveniently lift up to a cart.”

Also Bye-Laws Nos. 6 and 8 dealing with house refuse other than ashes, and the amount of refuse each receptacle shall hold respectively, and yet one is confronted at every turn by old buckets, boxes, and anything that will hold rubbish, piled up to the top. Contents are blown all over the streets on windy days, open for every dog to pick out scraps, and for boys to kick over. This condition of affairs is unsightly and liable to be a nuisance and injurious to health, for, in addition to house refuse, these buckets contain human excrement from the houses that do not possess water-closets. I strongly advise that the Bye-Law dealing with this matter be strictly enforced and the householders compelled to provide proper covered and sanitary refuse receptacles.

MATERNITY SERVICE AND CHILD WELFARE SCHEME.

Child Welfare and Maternity Service was more or less the natural outcome following the Notification of Births Act, 1915. For what was the use of passing such an Act if but a Register was to be kept only? Hence Schemes for the following up of mothers and babies followed. The Burgh has adopted a modified Scheme by which the District Nurse pays domiciliary visits to all new born babies, frequently till the end of the first year. In necessitous cases milk can be ordered and medicine, etc., under my direction. Of course such a limited Scheme but only touches the fringe of what a Child Welfare Scheme should accomplish, and it is my intention of laying before your Council a Scheme that goes further and touches many children and mothers who need looking after for more than the first year and it will bring under observation in time, when its benefits become known, all children of the poorer classes up to the age of five years.

MIDWIVES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1915.

City and Royal Burgh of Kirkwall.

REPORT BY THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Section 23.—The Medical Officer of every Local Supervising Authority shall report annually to that Authority on the administration of the Act within the District of the Local Authority, and he shall transmit a copy of such report to the Board and to the Scottish Board of Health.

- (1) List of MIDWIVES who have, up to 31st January, 1926, given notice under Section 18, of their intention to practice in the District:—
 Hannah Bews Ritch Muir, C.M.B., No. 3784, School Pl., Kirkwall.
 Mary Pearson Thomson, C.M.B., No. 6275, 15 East Road, Kirkwall.

(2) BIRTHS—

(a) Total number of Births during 1925	66
(b) Births (including Still-births) notified 1925	67
(c) Deaths of new born children (within 10 days)	3
(d) Births attended by Midwives only	Nil
(e) Deaths within 10 days in the practice of midwives	Nil
(f) Cases not attended by Doctor or Midwife:—	
Births, <i>nil.</i>	
Deaths, <i>nil.</i>	

(3) OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM—

(a) Cases during 1925	Nil
(b) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(c) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	Nil

(4) PUERPERAL SEPSIS—

(a) Cases during 1925	Nil
(b) Total number of deaths	Nil
(c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(d) Deaths in the practice of Midwives	Nil
(e) Cases occurring where confinement not attended by a Doctor or Midwife	Nil

(5) STILL-BIRTHS—

(a) Total number of cases during 1925	2
(b) Number notified	2
(c) Cases occurring in the practice of Midwives...	Nil

- (6) CASES OF EMERGENCY in which Medical Practitioners were called in under Section 22 of the Act... Nil

- (7) REMARKS.—The 'working of the Act is well carried out by the Local Practitioners. The births are regularly and quickly notified.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,
 KIRKWALL, 1st February, 1926.

TO THE PROVOST, MAGISTRATES AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
CITY AND ROYAL BURGH OF KIRK WALL.

REPORT by GEORGE STEVENSON, M.R.C.V.S., Sanitary Inspector
for the City and Royal Burgh of Kirkwall for the year to 31st
December, 1925.

I have to submit the following Report with regard to the sanitary condition of the City and Royal Burgh of Kirkwall for the year to 31st December, 1925.

WATER SUPPLY.

The supply of water was no more than sufficient for all purposes in the Burgh during the year. The summer was an extraordinarily dry one, and no care was taken of the water during the first half of the dry season—shop and hotel windows were hosed, motor cars were also hosed, and roads were patched and flooded with water from the mains in the month of July, and drifters came from Stronsay for the week-end and filled their boilers. A great many new houses have been fitted with baths and water closets, and also some old houses have had the water taken in. Consequently, very much more water was used than in former years. In future, if the season shows signs of being a dry one, the water supply should be conserved. I am of opinion that more attention should be paid to the water supply of the Burgh so that a sufficient supply may be available for domestic purposes in the driest season. When supplying water to ships at the pier, attention should be paid to the hose or hydrants so that no leakage takes place.

DRAINAGE.

There were not so many complaints regarding foul gulley grates as in previous years. Some of the boxes under the gulley grates, however, were not emptied so often as they should be, but there was some improvement. Some people continue to empty their slops in these gulley grates during the night time, and it is very difficult to find the offenders. At high tides the sea flushes the drains, etc., and helps to disinfect and keep them running clear.

SCAVENGING.

The scavenging was carried on as usual, and the work was fairly well done. The winds and heavy rains helped to keep the streets and closes clean in winter. When they become greasy and dirty they should be washed down with the hose if the supply of water will permit of that being done. The gulley grate boxes should be lifted and cleaned and the surface water drains flushed with the hose where there are much slops and excrete emptied.

NUISANCES AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

I received some complaints with regard to nuisances of a similar nature to those of previous years. Verbal notices in all cases were sufficient to secure the removal of the nuisances.

I personally sprayed with formalin and disinfected a few houses after cases of infectious diseases.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The Slaughterhouse was kept clean and in good order. The average number of cattle killed therein was 12 each week. Several sheep and also some pigs were killed weekly. Ten whole carcasses of cattle and parts of three carcasses, weighing altogether 50 cwts. 52 lbs., were condemned as being unfit for human food. The carcass of a sheep, weighing 40 lbs., was also condemned.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There were none of these in the Burgh.

DAIRIES.

The Registered Cowsheds were kept in fair reasonable order. The byres were cleaned down and whitewashed during the year. Almost all the cowkeepers have altered and improved their byres so as to meet the requirements of the Dairy Regulations. The cows were healthy during the year, and I did not find one case of a tuberculous udder. With cleanly people and healthy cows there is no difficulty in procuring a good and pure supply of milk.

It is very important that the people milking the cows and working with the milk should themselves be in good health and clean as well as the cows.

Three samples of mixed milk of various cows were taken by the Police from three dairies in the Burgh, and also three samples of mixed milk from milk carts from Dairies outside the Burgh, to be examined and tested for tubercular bacilli. No tubercular lesions were found in any of the samples. As these samples represented the mixed milk of over 60 cows, I considered the result very good.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

I took eight samples of sweet milk for analyses, all of which were certified by the Analyst to be genuine.

SCHOOL.

The sanitary arrangements of the School are up to date. It is kept clean and in good order.

BURIAL GROUNDS.

The condition of the Burial Ground at St. Magnus Cathedral was very much improved. There were very few burials in it during the year.

GEORGE STEVENSON,
Sanitary Inspector.

